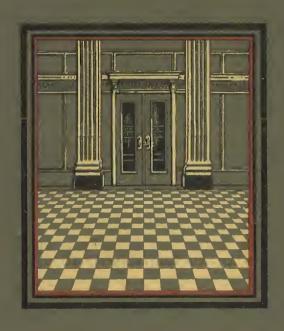
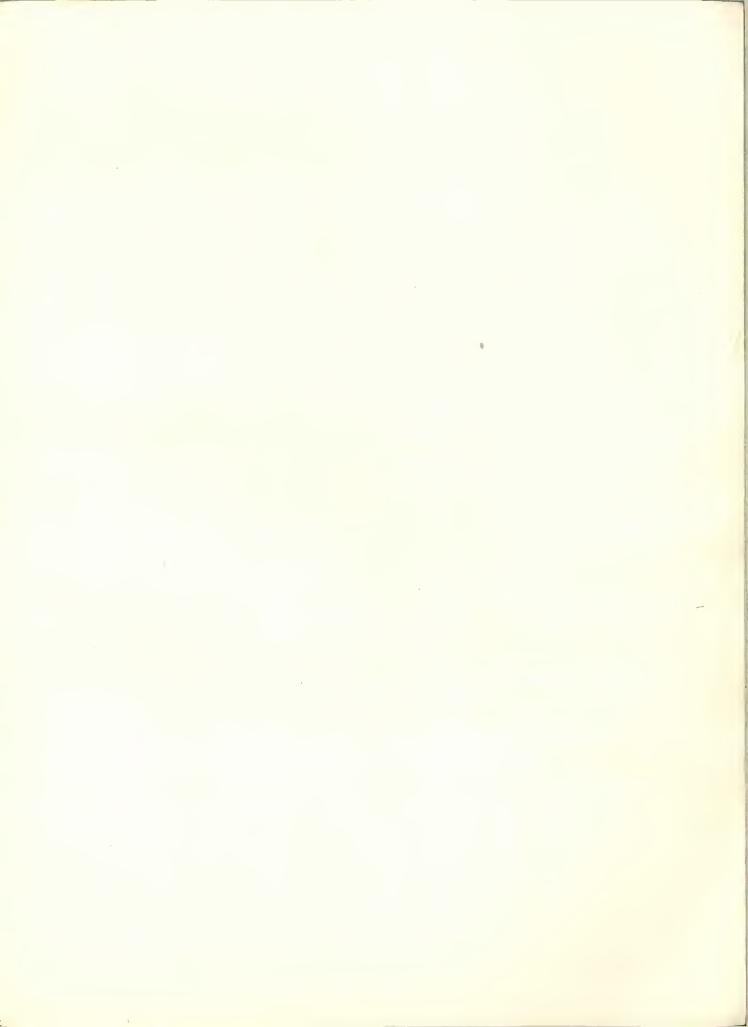
ARMSTRONG'S CORK TILE FLOORS







Cork is the outer bark of the cork-oak tree which is native to the mountains of Spain, Portugal, Southern France and the north-coast regions of Africa. The bark is removed at intervals of seven to nine years from the trunks and larger branches of trees that have attained the age of about twenty years and until they are very old—100 years or more.

Stripping is done by prying off the bark after longitudinal cuts have been made through it. After stripping, the bark is boiled, scraped clean, flattened out under presses and baled for shipment.

Corks (bottle stoppers) are punched from strips of cork bark. The "blanks," or straight-sided corks, are then tapered by the keen edge of a revolving knife, which turns off thin curlings around the cork until the desired taper is attained. It is from these curlings of clean, selected corkwood that Armstrong's Cork Tile is made.

CORK FOR FLOORS



HEN one stops to consider the qualities that are really essential and desirable in the better types of floors, it seems remarkable that only in recent years has cork come into anything like general use as a flooring material.

Examine a piece of cork in its familiar form—a bottle stopper. It is firm, yet it yields to pressure and is very resilient. It has a soft, velvety feel. It is warm to the touch. It does not "dust" or rub off. Try to break or cut it and you will find it exceedingly tough. Once attention is drawn to these unique properties of cork, it is obvious that they are exactly the qualities that a thoroughly satisfactory floor should possess. If, therefore, cork can be made available in suitable form, it should be ideal for certain classes of floors.

The genius of manufacture, which has turned to account so many crude raw materials, has been able to utilize cork as a flooring without sacrificing any of its valuable natural qualities. In Armstrong's Cork Tile, resilience, warmth, cleanliness and durability are combined with distinctive beauty of texture and coloring in a form structurally adaptable, easily laid and reasonable in cost.

CORK—NOT COMPOSITION

Armstrong's Cork Tile is not a composition, but is pure cork. It is made from carefully cleaned, thin cork curlings which are compressed in molds and baked. One effect of the baking is to cement the particles into a firm mass by liquefying the natural gum or resin in the cork bark. Another is to impart to it the rich, brown coloring, varying from very light to very dark according to the duration of the heating process. No other colors are given to cork tile, nor are any needed, the browns affording ample variety for a wide range of designs.

Armstrong's Cork Tile is one-half inch in thickness and is supplied in a large number of sizes which are listed on page 24.



N INE by nine-inch Medium shade Armstrong's Cork Tile laid over the mezzanine floor of the Union Trust Company, Pittsburgh, Pa. Graham, Anderson, Probst & White, Architects

CORK CURLINGS AND GRANULATED CORK

It is well to emphasize here the point, mentioned above, that Armstrong's Cork Tile is made of *cork curlings* and not *granulated cork*. The difference is vital to the life and appearance of the floor; moreover, it is almost impossible to detect until disclosed by the effects of wear. Definitions will help to make this distinction clear.

Cork curlings are the thin turnings that result from tapering bottle stoppers under a revolving knife, very similar to the shavings produced by the hand-planing of lumber. Those used in the manufacture of Armstrong's Cork Tile come from raw cork of good quality,



The cork curlings used in the manufacture of Armstrong's Cork Tile as they come from the cork tapering machines

selected especially for the manufacture of corks, and are clean and perfectly free from dust, grit, lumps, and coarse, hard bits of bark.

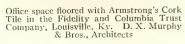
Granulated cork, on the other hand, is produced by breaking up the raw cork in grinders, and is composed entirely of small lumps of very irregular shape and size. Granulated cork invariably contains a considerable quantity of what is known as "hardback"—coarse, hard, gritty bark—some dust and, very often, other foreign matter which gets into the cork bark during the crude process of gathering and handling.

Cork curlings, when properly reduced in size and compressed in the molds, form a compact body made up of very thin pieces, each little slice of cork presenting the maximum amount of surface for the cementing effect of the liquefied gum. The resulting tile is a firmly cohering mass, perfectly homogeneous and with a smooth, uniform surface. The effects of wear are not perceptible until after many years of service. There is no pitting.

With granulated cork, however, the case is quite different. Obviously, a quantity of cork made up of relatively thick pieces has much smaller areas of surface available for cementing than the same amount of cork in the form of thin curlings. The result is that tile made from granulated cork is less coherent than that made from curlings. In service, a heel, or chair leg, or the abrasion of ordinary wear or cleaning will loosen some of these pieces of granulated cork; they soon come out and, from these "pits" as centers, disintegration spreads rapidly. The presence of dirt or "hardback" or any foreign substance in granulated tile, of course, weakens it structurally.



A portion of the Armstrong's Cork Tile floor in the offices of Cyrus Peirce & Company, San Francisco, Calif.





One of the kindergarten rooms and part of the 3000 square feet of Armstrong's Cork Tile in the Heckscher Foundation for Children, New York City. Maynicke and Franke, Architects deep, chocolate brown. *Medium* is an intermediate shade approximating a light chocolate brown. It should be understood, however, that not all tiles of any one shade are exactly the same; there will be a slight variation, lighter and darker, from each of the three standard shades. Incidentally, one of the most effective designs laid with Armstrong's Cork Tile is obtained by the use of tiles of all one shade, say *Medium*, laid solid and just as they come. Far from being monotonous, the diversity of tone gives the floor a most pleasing appearance.

Two or all three shades may be combined, using squares and oblongs in a variety of sizes and border strips of varying widths, in a range of designs that is almost unlimited.

The illustrations used throughout this book and the design plates shown on pages 20 to 23, inclusive, give some idea of the variety of treatment possible with different combinations of shades and sizes of tiles and border strips. These, of course, are only a few of the many patterns in which Armstrong's Cork Tile can be arranged to suit individual requirements and preferences.

The soft brown colors and the designs in which Armstrong's Cork Tile can be laid harmonize readily with almost any decorative scheme. A floor of Armstrong's Cork Tile gives to a room a restful tone of quiet dignity, a subdued individuality which can hardly be achieved with any other flooring material.

This distinctive appearance of Armstrong's Cork Tile commends it especially for floors in libraries, churches, banks, art galleries, and similar institutions, and is equally appropriate for the office and home.

IS IT A COMFORTABLE FLOOR?

In the matter of comfort underfoot, Armstrong's Cork Tile acknowledges no equal.

In the first place, it is a warm floor. One of the most important uses of cork is as insulation for refrigerators and cold storage rooms. This is because cork is a non-conductor; heat travels through it very slowly. Armstrong's Cork Tile is warm to the touch, whereas concrete and all hard tile floors feel cold because, being good conductors, they carry off the heat very rapidly. Warmth is essential to comfort, and warmth is one of the inherent qualities of cork.

Another essential to comfort underfoot is resilience. A floor whose hard, unyielding surface jars the body with each footstep is a most

uncomfortable floor upon which to spend more than a very few minutes. Taken by itself, each of these little shocks may be imperceptible, but their cumulative effect is extremely fatiguing.

Pick up the bottle stopper again and give it a quick squeeze. It yields readily enough, but how strongly and surely it comes back. That is exactly what happens when the foot comes down on a floor of Armstrong's Cork Tile. Instead of a jarring stop on a hard surface. the floor gives a little to the weight and then starts to spring back. This yielding and resilience absorb the shocks that otherwise would come on the muscles of the leg and back. There is no tiring strain in standing or walking on such a floor. It conserves energy and reduces fatigue and so helps materially to maintain an alertness of body and mind which is not possible under any condition of physical discomfort.

In banks, offices and stores, courtrooms, museums, etc., the restful comfortableness of Armstrong's Cork Tile is a positive promoter of efficiency and good will. In school rooms, kindergartens and nurs-



Light and Dark Armstrong's Cork Tile in 9 x 18-inch blocks in Mount St. Mary's Theological Seminary, Norwood, Ohio. Kunz & Beck and Howard W. Germann, Architects



Court Chambers, Stearns County Court House, St. Cloud, Minn. The floor is Armstrong's Cork Tile. Toltz, King & Day, Inc., Architects

eries, in bathrooms and sleeping porches, the value of the warmth of such a floor is at once apparent.

WHAT ABOUT NOISE?

In business rooms the question of noise is a very important one. The scuffling of feet, the scraping of chairs and the reverberation of other sounds from hard-surfaced floors is distracting and confusing, and detrimental to the orderly conduct of affairs. In libraries, churches, museums, art galleries, lodge rooms, theatres and halls, as well as in banks, offices and courtrooms, the noiselessness of Armstrong's Cork Tile is one of its most valuable qualities.

So resilient a material as cork effectually deadens sounds, not only those that originate on its surface, but sounds from other sources which a hard floor would reflect and amplify. Armstrong's Cork Tile is almost as silent underfoot as carpet and for this reason is an appropriate floor for restrooms, billiard and game rooms in clubs, and for the corridors of hotels, apartment houses and sanitariums.



The finished floor in the Chicago Methodist Episcopal Aid Society Auditorium before the pews were placed over the ventilators. Tiles of a variety of sizes and in all three shades were used. Holabird and Roche, Architects

IS IT A SAFE FLOOR?

By "safe" is meant clean, fire-retarding and non-slippery.

The surface of Armstrong's Cork Tile is sanded perfectly smooth, and there are no cracks or crevices where dust may lodge. All joints between the tiles are tightly sealed with waterproof cement. Water and dirt cannot get through.

While not incombustible, Armstrong's Cork Tile does not ignite readily. It burns very slowly and only while heat is applied from an external source, and it does not smoulder or carry fire.

Cork is quite generally used for machinery clutches because of its frictional property. Pick up your cork again and try to slide it over any smooth surface. Notice how it "grips." Underfoot, Armstrong's Cork Tile affords a secure footing; it is almost impossible to slip on it. On stair treads and landings, in front of elevators, and on ramps and inclines in theatres and stores, Armstrong's Cork Tile is an effective



Checkerboard design of Armstrong's Cork Tile—a quiet, comfortable and very appropriate floor for a billiard room. Kansas City Club, Kansas City, Mo.

ARMSTRONG'S CO



One of the eight rooms floored with Armstrong's Cork Tile, alternating Light and Medium shades in 4½-inch squares, in the Antique Shop of Henry Symons Company, Chicago, Ill.



SLEEPING porch with 9 x 9-inch Light and 2 x 2 and 2 x 9-inch Dark shades of Armstrong's Cork Tile. Residence of Edward W. Foristel, St. Louis, Mo., Saum & Saum, Architects

safeguard against accident and injury which are all too common on smooth-finished, hard floors, whether of wood or tile.

HOW DOES CORK TILE WEAR?

Recall here the difference noted on page 7, between cork tile made of curlings and that made of granu-

lated cork. The distinction of the floor.

Containing no thick lum tendency in Armstrong's Contrary, the thin curlings together that no amount of the bond. As a result, there

RK TILE FLOORS



n is vital to the durability

mps of cork, there is no Cork Tile to pit. On the are so securely cemented fordinary wear will loosen is no disintegration. The

only effect of use is the gradual wearing down of the surface, and this is extremely slow, even under quite severe traffic, as cork is tough and tenacious, remarkably resistant to abrasion. Unless actually abused, Armstrong's Cork Tile will give many years of service with less evidence of wear than any but the hardest materials.

HOW IS IT LAID?

Armstrong's Cork Tile is made in squares of various sizes from two to twelve inches and in oblongs and strips varying in width from one to twelve inches and in length from six to thirty-six inches. These are laid, piece by piece, in the design selected, in Nonpareil Water-proof Cement, a permanent and very adhesive cement which, after it has hardened, is not affected by moisture or by changes of temperature. When laid over wood, Nonpareil Cement is used in the joints only, the tile being fastened to the floor with headless steel brads. As a result, Armstrong's Cork Tile is firmly secured to the base; it will not loosen, buckle or bulge. Complete specifications for laying will be found on pages 25 to 29, inclusive.

Armstrong's Cork Tile can be laid over any smooth, dry base of wood, concrete, composition or metal, in old or new buildings, over large or small areas, wherever a floor of this type is suitable. For concrete floors in contact with the ground, special waterproofing precautions are required. (See specification on page 29.)

Both the appearance and the durability of cork tile floors depend to a large degree upon the skill with which they are laid. For this reason, Armstrong's Cork Tile is not sold except on a contract basis to be installed by the Company's own experienced workmen or those of its authorized agents. In this way, the Company controls the quality of both the material and its installation, and is able to assure the purchaser that his floors will be laid and finished properly.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Contrary to what might be expected of a floor of such exceptional merit, Armstrong's Cork Tile is by no means an expensive floor. Considered in its proper class as one of the fine floors, its first cost compares most favorably with that of marble or ceramic tile, the better grades of hardwood, etc. Bear in mind that Armstrong's Cork Tile is a *floor* and should not be confused with floor coverings. And remember, too, that, unlike many floors, it requires no waxing, oiling or varnishing.

With due regard to its reasonable first cost, its very low cost of upkeep, its remarkable durability and the satisfaction derived from its unique qualities—comfort, silence and distinctive appearance—Armstrong's Cork Tile is, indeed, a very economical floor. It combines with the strictly utilitarian features those values that appeal more especially to the aesthetic sense and which, heretofore, have been attained only by the use of rugs or other coverings over the floor itself. Armstrong's Cork Tile is the *complete* floor, its excellence unimpaired by the lack of a single desirable quality.



Board room with 9 x 9-inch Light and Dark Armstrong's Cork Tile. Equitable Trust Company, Atlantic City, N. J.

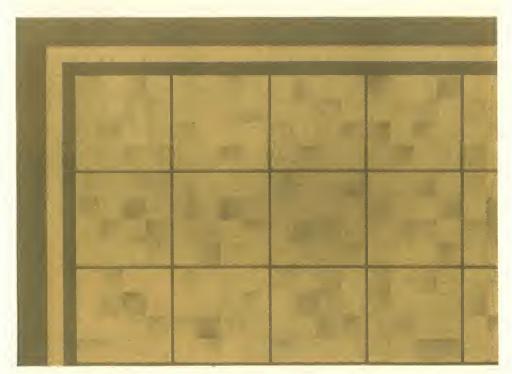
DESIGNS

plates on the following pages show how effectively the different colors and tile sizes may be combined. Many other arrangements will suggest themselves, and there is hardly a limit to the number of designs that may be worked out with Armstrong's Cork Tile.

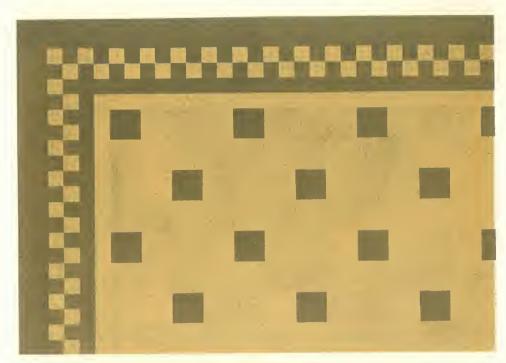




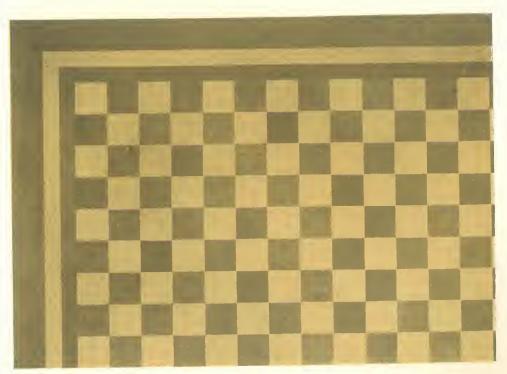
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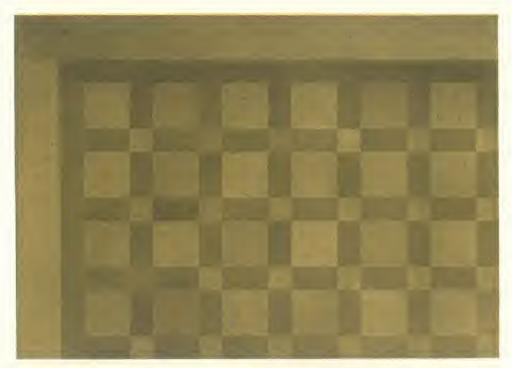
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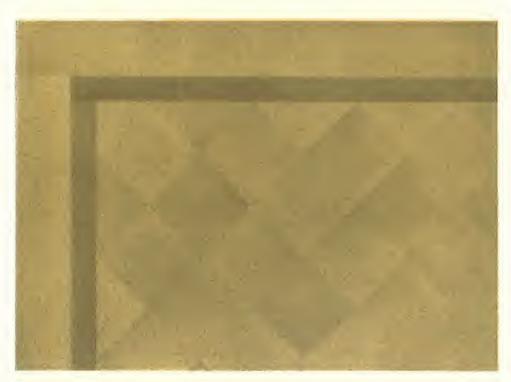
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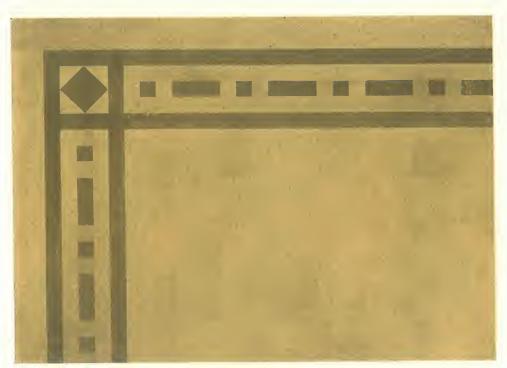
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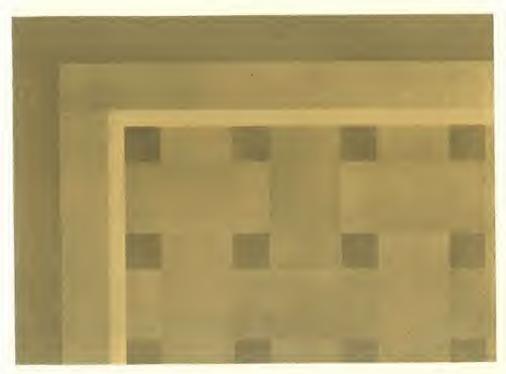
Design No. 5



Design No. 6



Design No. 7



Design No. 8

SERVICE DETAILS

Armstrong's Cork Tile is supplied in the following sizes, all of which are one-half inch thick:

SQUARES (Inches)		OBLONGS (Inches)	
2 x 2	1 x 18	3 x 12	6 x 12
3 x 3	$1\frac{1}{2} \times 18$	3 x 18	6 x 18
4 x 4	$1\frac{1}{2} \times 36$	3 x 36	6 x 36
$4\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$	2 x 6	4 x 12	9 x 18
6 x 6	2 x 9	4 x 18	9 x 36
9 x 9	2 x 18	4 x 36	12×18
12 x 12	2 x 36	$4\frac{1}{2} \times 18$	12 x 24
	3 x 9	$4\frac{1}{2} \times 36$	12×36

Sanitary cove and corner cove—1½ x 1½ inches—and sanitary base in the standard 6-inch height are furnished in all three colors in which Armstrong's Cork Tile is made. The sanitary base, with the top edge beveled, can also be supplied, on order, in other heights, greater or less than 6 inches.

SPECIFICATIONS

Architects will find it convenient to use the following specifications for the installation of Armstrong's Cork Tile:

Over suspended concrete floors;

Over suspended wood floors;

Sanitary cove and base;

On stair treads;

Over concrete floors in contact with the ground.

Armstrong's Cork Tile cannot be installed satisfactorily in basements or over any concrete floor in direct contact with the ground unless the floor be damp-proofed in accordance with the specifications on page 29.

ARMSTRONG'S CORK TILE OVER SUSPENDED CONCRETE FLOORS

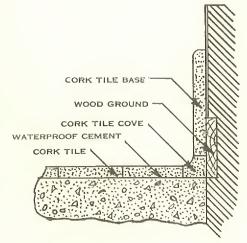
The suspended concrete base shall be furnished and installed by another contractor. The surface of this base shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the finished floor level and shall be troweled perfectly smooth and even.

After the concrete is thoroughly dry and well seasoned*, there shall be installed by the Armstrong Cork & Insulation Company, or its authorized agent, an Armstrong's Cork Tile floor of plain design with a plain two-or three-piece straight-line border in any combination of the three shades of brown and the standard sizes described in

the book, "Armstrong's Cork Tile Floors," 1924 Edition.

All cork tile shall be made of clean cork curlings. No granulated cork shall be used in its manufacture. It shall be homogeneous from face to back, free from foreign substances and thoroughly and evenly baked.

All cork tile shall be laid in Nonpareil Waterproof Cement with edges coated with the same material. The tile shall be additionally secured in position with



headless tempered steel brads. The lines between the tile shall be straight so as to preserve the symmetry of the design, and the finished cork tile floor shall be sanded to a smooth and even surface and left clean and in good condition.

*Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over a new suspended concrete floor, the top finish of the concrete shall consist of a mixture of one part Portland cement and four parts of sand, which shall be troweled to a perfectly smooth and even surface. The concrete shall be thoroughly dry and well seasoned before the cork tile is laid.

Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over an old suspended concrete floor or hard tile floor, the base shall be perfectly true and even, and any low places, expansion score marks or cracks shall be repaired by another contractor, and finished flush with the surface of the floor before the cork tile is laid.

Alternate—If the concrete base is too hard, or if for any reason bradding is not desired, the tile shall be held in place by weighting until the cement has set.

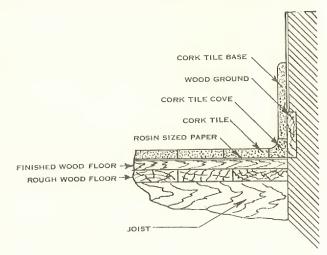
All borders shall follow the line of permanent fixtures, unless otherwise specified, and the width of borders may vary to allow for variations in the dimensions of rooms, size of tile and design selected. The cork tile shall butt against the base and plinth blocks which shall be carried down to the base floor level.

ARMSTRONG'S CORK TILE OVER SUSPENDED WOOD FLOORS

The suspended wood base* shall be furnished and installed by another contractor. This wood base shall be brought up to a surface ½ inch below the finished floor level, and shall be of thoroughly dry

and well-seasoned T. & G. lumber, not more than 3 inches wide, laid close but not driven tight, and left perfectly smooth and even.

On this wood base, there shall be installed by the Armstrong Cork & Insulation Company, or its authorized agent, one layer of rosin-sized paper, and over this an



Armstrong's Cork Tile floor of plain design with a plain two- or three-piece straight-line border in any combination of the three shades

*Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over a new suspended wood floor, this floor shall be laid with approximately ½2 inch between the boards and face nailed to eliminate expansion or buckling. Any unevenness in the boards shall be planed smooth and even by another contractor.

Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over an old suspended wood floor, all loose, defective or badly worn boards shall be replaced or face nailed. Any unevenness in the boards shall be planed smooth and even by another contractor.

of brown and the standard sizes described in the book, "Armstrong's Cork Tile Floors," 1924 Edition.

All cork tile shall be made of clean cork curlings. No granulated cork shall be used in its manufacture. It shall be homogeneous from face to back, free from foreign substances and thoroughly and evenly baked.

The edges of the cork tile shall be coated with Nonpareil Waterproof Cement and the tile shall be secured in position with headless steel brads. The lines between the tile shall be straight so as to preserve the symmetry of the design and the finished cork tile floor shall be sanded to a smooth and even surface and left clean and in good condition.

All borders shall follow the line of permanent fixtures, unless otherwise specified, and the width of all borders may vary to allow for variations in the dimensions of the rooms, size of tile and design selected. The cork tile shall butt against the base and plinth blocks which shall be carried down to the base floor level.

ARMSTRONG'S CORK TILE COVE AND BASE*

A straight ground, 3 inches high, to serve as a backing for Armstrong's Cork Tile cove and base, shall be set all around the room at the base floor level and nailed securely in place by another contractor. The surface of the walls and the intersection of the walls and floors shall be left perfectly true and even, free from dirt and other foreign matter, and the plaster finish shall be brought down flush with the top of the base ground by the contractor who applies the wall finish to secure a true, even surface flush with the ground.

There shall be installed by the Armstrong Cork & Insulation Company, or its authorized agent, an Armstrong's Cork Tile cove and 6-inch high base of the shade selected. The cove and base shall be

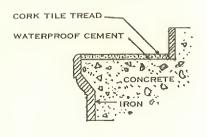
*Where Armstrong's Cork Tile cove only is to be installed, the intersection of the walls and floor shall be left perfectly true and even and free from dirt and other foreign matter. To a finished wall surface, there shall be installed an Armstrong's Cork Tile cove of the shade selected, the cove to make a neat, tight joint with the cork tile floor. The cove shall be sanded to a smooth and even surface and left in good condition ready to receive the base or other wall finish by another contractor.

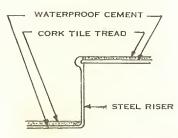
secured firmly in position with Nonpareil Waterproof Cement, the cove to make a neat, tight joint all around with the cork tile and with the base. The cove and base shall be sanded to a smooth and even surface and left clean and in good condition.

ARMSTRONG'S CORK TILE ON STAIR TREADS

The stair treads* shall be furnished and installed by another contractor. The surface of the treads shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the finished step level and shall be perfectly smooth and even. A nosing of concrete, steel or brass extending $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the treads so as to finish flush with the top of the cork tile shall be installed by another contractor.

There shall be installed by the Armstrong Cork & Insulation Company, or its authorized agent, Armstrong's Cork Tile of one shade or a plain design selected from the three shades of brown and the standard sizes described in the book, "Armstrong's Corl



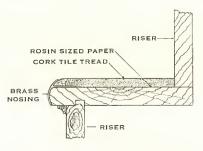


scribed in the book, "Armstrong's Cork Tile Floors," 1924 Edition.

*Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over new concrete treads, the top finish of the concrete shall consist of a mixture of one part Portland cement and four parts of sand; the concrete shall be troweled to a perfectly smooth and even surface and shall be thoroughly dry and well seasoned before the cork tile is laid. Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over old concrete treads, the treads shall be perfectly true and even, and any low places or cracks shall be repaired by another contractor and finished flush with the surface of the tread before the cork tile is laid. The concrete shall be thoroughly dry and well seasoned.

Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over metal treads, the metal shall be sufficiently rigid to form a firm base for the cork tile.

Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over new wood treads, the treads shall be made of dry and well-seasoned lumber not less than ½-inch thick, and left perfectly smooth and even. Where Armstrong's Cork Tile is to be installed over old wood treads, all loose, defective or badly worn boards shall be replaced or face nailed. Any unevenness in the boards shall be planed smooth and even by another contractor.



All cork tile shall be made of clean cork curlings. No granulated cork shall be used in its manufacture. It shall be homogeneous from face to back, free from all foreign substances and thoroughly and evenly baked.

All cork tile shall be laid directly on the treads in Nonpareil Waterproof

Cement with the edges coated with the same material, and the finished cork tile shall be sanded to a smooth and even surface and left clean and in good condition.

DAMP-PROOFING CONCRETE FLOORS IN CONTACT WITH THE GROUND TO RECEIVE ARMSTRONG'S CORK TILE

The concrete base to receive Armstrong's Cork Tile shall be furnished and installed complete by another contractor as follows: The concrete in contact with the ground shall be brought up to within not less than 3 inches of the finished floor line and shall have a level float finish. On this surface shall be installed a damp-proofing membrane consisting of 5 layers of one-ply saturated felt, each layer to be laid in and mopped with hot pitch (total thickness of membrane to be approximately ¼ inch). This membrane is to be flashed up the outside walls and columns to a point at least 1 inch above the finished floor line. On top of this damp-proofing membrane shall be furnished and installed a rough concrete floor approximately 1½ inches in thickness with a 1-inch top cement finish, screeded and troweled smooth and level, without score marks. This surface shall be finished exactly ½ inch below the desired finished floor level.

After the concrete is thoroughly dry and well seasoned, there shall be installed by the Armstrong Cork & Insulation Company, or its authorized agent, an Armstrong's Cork Tile floor in accordance with the specification for Armstrong's Cork Tile over a concrete base on page 25.

CONTRACT DEPARTMENT

Natter how carefully cork tile is manufactured, if it is laid improperly the finished floor will not give satisfaction. To eliminate the possibility of poor workmanship, the Company and its authorized agents maintain at all offices men who have been specially trained in the laying of Armstrong's Cork Tile. This force is sufficiently large to take care of installations of any size with promptness and efficiency in all parts of the United States and Canada.

SAMPLES AND ESTIMATES

Samples of Armstrong's Cork Tile, in all three colors, will be sent promptly, on request, to anyone interested. Furthermore, the Company is ready at all times to furnish suggestions and estimates, and to co-operate in every way with those who desire assistance or advice.



ARMSTRONG CORK & INSULATION COMPANY PITTSBURGH, PA., U.S.A.

BRANCHES OR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA







